

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 15, 2013

Award Recipients

In less than two weeks we will recognize outstanding faculty and staff at the Annual Services Awards. It is always a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of some truly deserving members of the university community. The presentation of these awards will take place on April 24 at 2 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room.

Please join me in congratulating this year's Distinguished Teacher honoree, Dr. Avesh Raghunandan from the Michigan College of Optometry. The Distinguished Teacher Award is selected by a committee that invests considerable time and effort in the process. Also, join me in thanking the faculty members who served on this year's committee: Adnan Dakkuri (Chair), Kim Beistle, Amy Dinardo, Pasquale DiRaddo, Robert Friar, Roy McLean and Cami Sanderson.

As Distinguished Teacher, Dr. Raghunandan shares the company of an exceptional group of faculty and staff who will also be honored at the Service Awards -

- Academic Scholar Award - Robert Quist, Humanities
- Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award - Brooke Moore, Humanities
- Distinguished Enhancement Award - Michael Wade, Multicultural Student Services
- Distinguished Service Award - Brad McCormick, Health Sciences
- Outstanding Academic Advisor Award - Lori Armstrong, Music Industry Management
- Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award - Joanne Robertson, Residence Life

The Distinguished Staff and Team Committee has received many nominations and after significant review has selected the following individuals to receive the Distinguished Staff Award -

- Jocelyn Goheen, Extended and International Operations
- Mary Holmes, E-Learning Systems
- Deb Thalner, Online Education
- Sonya VanAlstine, Housing and Residence Life

Recipients of the Distinguished Team Award are the Dental Hygiene Program and Student American Dental Hygienists Association for the Dental Health Fair. It is a difficult task to select awardees from among so many worthy candidates. Please join in thanking the members of the Distinguished Staff and Team Award committee consisting of Bill Bitzinger and Shelly VandePanne (co-chairs), Craig Bowman, Pam Muccio and Tracy Powers.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and staff at Ferris State University. The excellence embodied by our award winners is made possible by the concerted efforts of everyone in the Ferris community. I hope you will attend the Service Awards on April 24 and express your appreciation to this year's award winners.

Take Back the Night

This year there is an especially vibrant slate of Take Back the Night events, offered by the Social Work Association along with other campus and community groups, in support of sexual assault awareness and prevention, and survivor assistance.

On Thursday, April 18, there will be a Take Back the Night march beginning at 6:30 p.m., starting at the IRC Connector and ending at Williams Auditorium. There, keynote speaker Nicole Braddock, founder of OneVoice Enterprises, will discuss “Our Little Secret,” starting at 7:30 p.m.. OneVoice is an organization committed to sexual abuse prevention.

On Monday, April 15 through Wednesday, April 17, students can stop by the North Quad from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to create “These Hands Are Not for Hurting” banners and “Clothesline Project” shirts. The North Quad also will be the site for Open Mic Night from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, and a candlelight vigil on Wednesday starting at 7 p.m.

More information is available on the FSU Events Calendar.

Higher Education Funding

The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee released its proposed budget last Wednesday. Similar to proposals by the Governor and House, it is based on an overall funding increase of 2 percent and allocates as base funds the one-time dollars (more than \$2.9 million for Ferris) from last year’s budget. Under the Senate proposal Ferris would receive \$2,371,541 in new base funding, a 5.4 percent increase, which represents 9.5 percent of all new state funding. Some additional analysis and comparison:

- As in the House proposal, the Senate proposed budget does not separately fund tuition restraint. Last year tuition restraint was encouraged through a formula that rewarded institutions the less they raised tuition. This approach was retained in the Governor’s proposal, but not the others. The House and Senate budgets require that tuition be restrained below a certain percentage (3 percent in the House, 4 percent in the Senate) to qualify for additional funding.
- Unlike the other budgets, the Senate takes \$4 million and divides it to help cover our shortfalls in MPSERS and the Indian Tuition Waiver costs.
- The Senate changes the weighting formula for Carnegie classification performance metrics, rewarding a “3” for top 20 percent and a “2” for median or improving, This proposal eliminates the “1” rating.

With three different budget proposals – Governor, House, and Senate – the budget bills will move to conference committee during the next month. Ferris is well positioned under all three budgets. The House recommendation is an increase of \$2,013,873 and the Governor’s recommendation is an increase \$2,083,439 (with an additional \$6 million in tuition restraint funds to be awarded).

All three budgets reflect the advancements Ferris is making as a university responsive to the needs of its students and the priorities of our state. I will continue to work in Lansing for increased support and will keep you updated as this process moves forward.

Weekend Events

Sunday's International Festival of Cultures filled the IRC Connector to overflowing. Congratulations to our international students and the Office of International Education on a truly superb event. As we work to become an increasingly global university, we are fortunate to have a rapidly growing and actively engaged population of international students.

As a result of Michigan's uniquely "spring-like" weather last weekend, both the Big Event and Spring Football Game were postponed until this Saturday, April 20. I encourage you to support our students this Saturday at 9 a.m. as they begin the Big Event, and at 1 p.m. when our football team will play their inter-squad game. The Big Event starts at Top Taggart Field, site for the game later in the day. I am very proud of our students and the example they set of helping others.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president